

**REPORT ON THE NOMENCLATORIAL STATUS OF THE
GENERIC NAME " MANATUS " BRÜNNICH, 1771 (CLASS
MAMMALIA)**

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1. When at its Session held in Paris in 1948 the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature gave a ruling that in the *Zoologiae Fundamenta* of 1771 Brünnich had satisfied the requirements of Article 25 of the *Règles* and therefore that new generic names published in that work possessed rights under the Law of Priority (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 307-310), it decided that that decision should be followed up by supplementary decisions in regard to the acceptance or otherwise of the generic names in question. For the Commission was of the opinion that it was only by this means that the risk that in some individual case confusion or undesirable name-changing might result from the application of the general decision of principle then taken in regard to the nomenclatorial status of Brünnich's book could be avoided. Save in one case (*Tonna* Brünnich) where a definite proposal had already been submitted, the Commission had not on that occasion the material immediately available to enable it to reach decisions in regard to the individual names involved, and it accordingly invited me, as its Secretary, to confer with specialists on any issues raised by the names concerned and to submit Reports thereon with recommendations for consideration by the Commission. The name *Manatus* Brünnich, 1771, was one of the names so referred for investigation and it is with that name that the present Report is concerned.

2. In the original application submitted to the Commission in regard to the status of names in Brünnich's *Zoologiae Fundamenta*, the late Mr. R. Winckworth pointed out (1945, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **1** : 115) that the nominal genus *Manatus* Brünnich, 1771 (*Zool. Fund.* : 38) had been established for *Trichechus manatus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 34), the Manatee. Mr. Winckworth did not expressly state that this species was the type species of *Manatus* Brünnich, but I find that this species was in fact so selected by Palmer in 1904 (*N. Amer. Fauna* **23** : 398).

3. I find also that in a different connection the name *Manatus* Brünnich, 1771, was considered by the Commission when considering an application for the use of the plenary powers for the names of sixteen genera of mammals submitted many years ago by seven leading mammalogists in different parts of the world. A preliminary Report by the Commission on that application was given in the Commission's *Opinion* 90 published in 1925 (*Smithson misc. Coll.* **73** (No. 3) : 34-40). The Commission's final decision in regard to the portion of the application relating to the name with which we are here concerned was given four years later in *Opinion* 112 (1929, *Smithson misc. Coll.* **73** (No. 6) (3016) : 19). In that *Opinion* the Commission rejected the application that the plenary powers should be used to validate the name *Manatus* Brünnich, 1771, as the generic name for the Manatee in place of the older name *Trichechus*

Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 34), of which the Manatee (*Trichechus manatus* Linnaeus, 1758) was also the type species (by monotypy). At the same time the Commission placed the name *Trichechus* Linnaeus, 1758 (with the above species as type species) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

4. We see from the foregoing data that the generic name *Manatus* Brünnich, 1771, is an objective junior synonym of a name (*Trichechus* Linnaeus, 1758), which has already been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, after the rejection of an application that the plenary powers should be used to validate the name *Manatus* Brünnich, 1771. In accordance with the decision by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology that names rejected by, or found to be invalid by, the International Commission are to be placed on the appropriate *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names*, the name *Manatus* Brünnich, 1771, should now be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

5. At this point we may recall also that the Paris Congress directed that the trivial name of the type species of every genus, the name of which is placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, shall, if the oldest available trivial name for the species concerned, be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 270). In due course the trivial names of the type species of all the genera, the names of which have so far been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* will be examined in the light of the foregoing decision and, if found to be the oldest available such names for the species concerned, will be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, but it is desirable that, as and when it is necessary (as here) to examine such a name for some other purpose, that name should forthwith be placed on the last-named *Official List*. The trivial name *manatus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Trichechus manatus*) is the oldest available trivial name for the species concerned, and it is desirable therefore that the present opportunity should be taken for placing it on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

6. In the light of the considerations brought forward in the preceding paragraphs, I now submit the following recommendations for the consideration of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, namely that it should :—

- (1) place the generic name *Manatus* Brünnich, 1771, an objective junior synonym of the name *Trichechus* Linnaeus, 1758 (already placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the decision taken in *Opinion* 112), on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (2) place the trivial name *manatus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Trichechus manatus*) (trivial name of the type species of *Trichechus* Linnaeus, 1758) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

